

3 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director (Plans)
Deputy Director (Intelligence)
Acting Deputy Director (Administration)

SUBJECT: Congressional Briefings

For some time I have been of the opinion that we have too many people attending the Congressional briefings and debriefings. There follows a quote from the Thirty-Third Report of the Preparedness Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate:

"It is rare that a congressional committee meets upon any subject affecting the armed services without finding the hearing room jammed with high-ranking officers and Defense Department civilian officials.

"At a recent meeting of the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, 14 assorted officials from one defense agency appeared to testify. Their ranks ranged from lieutenant colonel to four-star general and from civilian technician to secretary.

"As most of these officials contributed nothing to the hearing, it was difficult to escape the impression of a woeful and unnecessary waste of manpower.

"At the conclusion of the hearing, the chairman of the subcommittee admonished the secretary in question that similar episodes should be avoided in the future. He stated that two informed officials would have been sufficient for the purpose of the committee--one to discuss policy matters and the other to discuss technical details.

"The others, he added, should be put to some better use.

"The chairman requested that his remarks be brought to the attention of the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. He later directed the subcommittee staff to obtain and study exact figures on the number of general and flag officers and the number of Defense Department civilian employees in the Washington, D. C., area."

LYMAN B. KIRKPATRICK
Inspector General

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Remarks: This is not intended to be anti-military - but I do think it's a good warning against our tendency to seek meetings. If you agree will disseminate.

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